

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, please replace the paragraph that was previously added above line 1 in the November 1, 2006 Preliminary Amendment with the following rewritten paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[01] Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 10 2004 008 283.9 filed February 18, 2004. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2005/000276 filed February 18, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.

On Page 1, please add the following paragraphs or subtitles after the paragraph that was added above line 1, and before the paragraph that begins with "[01] The invention relates to":

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. **Field of the Invention**

On Page 1, please replace the paragraph that begins with "[01] The invention relates to" with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~{01}~~ [01.1] The invention relates to a fastening tape for a hygiene item, said hygiene item and a method for producing a fastening tape for a hygiene item. In particular, the invention relates to a fastening tape for a baby diaper or for an incontinency diaper, said baby diaper or incontinency diaper and a method for producing such diapers.

On Page 1, please add the following paragraph or subtitle after paragraph [01.1] and before paragraph [02]:

2. Description of the Prior Art

On Page 1, please replace paragraph [02] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[02] ~~When opening~~ Opening the fastening tape on a diaper to put the diaper on or take it off, ~~this regularly involves the task of gripping an end of the fastening tape at the end~~ using one's fingers and pulling the fastening tape away from the surface of the diaper ~~cooperating that cooperates~~ with the tape or away from a release tape on the surface of the diaper. ~~To this end~~ As a result, a fastening tape often has a protruding section which extends as the "free end" beyond the closing area of ~~such a~~ the tape. ~~It is proposed in EP 0 840 585 B1~~ discloses that for fastening tapes with a closing area and a protruding section it is especially favorable from a manufacturing standpoint to make a wavy cut along the machine transport direction to sever the strips of tape during production. The wavy cut results in a tape having a wavy end with a plurality of wavy heads, with a protruding section being formed on each wavy head on the wavy end of the tape.

On Page 2, between paragraph [05] and paragraph [06], please insert the following paragraph or subtitle:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On Pages 6-7, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 (paragraph [18]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

[18] An especially inexpensive means of providing, applying and/or attaching the component for the grip area is achieved according to an especially preferred embodiment of this invention by the fact that the grip area is designed "like a film." In the present context the term "like a film" is understood to refer to a structural component, the area of which in mm² amounts to at least eight times the thickness in mm measured for this area. In the present case, such a component is then a film if it has sufficient inherent stability and is flexible. To obtain a film-like grip area, for example, a film piece may be glued or otherwise applied as a separate component to the protruding section, ~~which is associated~~ and this gluing or other application can be accomplished with little effort. Alternatively, a directly adhering material, e.g., a hot-melt adhesive or some other thermoplastic material such as TPE may be applied directly to the diaper fastening tape to be a film on the diaper fastening tape so that in turn an independent structured component on the diaper fastening tape is designed in the manner and with the properties of a film. In the case of hot-melt adhesives in particular, however, the component may be relatively brittle so that here it

is better to speak of a film-like component. A film-like material for the structurally independent component forming the separate grip area is much more favorable in particular than a mechanically reworked hook material, as provided in U.S. Pat. No. 6,210,389, for example, or more favorable than providing a few individually arranged hooks or hook spots as proposed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,624,429. Therefore, the film-like material has no hooks.

On Page 7, please replace the first full paragraph (paragraph [19]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

[19] In order for the grip area to be especially readily palpable and so that it can also be differentiated from a hook area arranged next to it, so that the grip area is of a different type of material than the hook area or closing area arranged next to it, it is proposed that it should have a structurally independent design element in the form of a film with a thickness of more than 100 μm , preferably less than 600 μm . Depending on the concrete type of macroscopic surface structure, no great mechanical requirements need be made of the separate film of the grip area. Therefore, even relatively thick films may be used with little expenditure of cost. Even if technically more demanding films are used, it may nevertheless be assumed that the proposed approach will remain quite inexpensive. In particular, aftertreatment steps, such as those required in U.S. Pat. No. 6,210,389 B1, for example, may be omitted.

On Page 13, before the first full paragraph, paragraph [34], please insert the following paragraph or subtitle:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On Page 13, please replace the first full paragraph, which is also numbered as paragraph [34], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[34] The invention will now be explained further below on the basis of various exemplary embodiments with reference to the drawing. Functionally identical components in the drawing may have the same reference numerals.

Figure 1 shows schematically a cross section through two diaper fastening tape strips lying one above the other in the way in which they are transported and cut on a production machine,

Figure 2 shows schematically the diaper fastening tape strips from Figure 1 and a cutting line along which the diaper fastening tape strips from Figure 1 are separated in production,

Figure 3 shows schematically a top view of a diaper fastening tape strip after being separated from the opposing strip but before being cut to form the actual tape form,

Figures 4 and 5 each show two diaper fastening tapes

attached to a diaper and

Figures 6a through 6d show various exemplary embodiments of the invention in detail according to the exemplary characterization detail area IV in Figure 3. Figure 6e is a combination of Figures 6a and 6b.

On Page 13, before paragraph [35], please insert the following paragraph or subtitle:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On Page 13, please replace paragraph [35] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[35] The two fastening tape strips 1 and 2 in Figure 1 are joined at the ends in a machine cross-direction 3 and usually run in this form through the production machine which separates them, for example, in a wavy form (see Figure 2) along a cut 4. Figure 2 shows fastening strips 1 and 2 of Figure 1 along cut 4 with a wavy form. After being separated by the cut 4 in the machine cross-direction 3, the diaper fastening tape strip 1 is separated by separating cuts 5 (shown as an example in Figure 3) to form individual diaper fastening tapes 10 which lie adjacent to one another in the machine direction 6 and can be taken from the machine.

On Page 17, between paragraphs [46] and [47] please insert the following new paragraph:

[46.1] Figure 6e is a combination of Figures 6a and 6b. This Figure 6e shows a protruding section 14 with a film 22a with numerous macroscopic perforation spots 23a providing a macroscopic surface structure to the film 22a, imparting a first high grip traction to this part of the protruding section 14. Second, this fastening tape has a wavy film 31a applied to the tape edge 16a. The film 31 is a strip approximately 5 mm wide running directly along edge 16a of the tape over its entire length. This also yields a grip edge 32a that is easy to grip. The film strip 31 has numerous ridges 33a and valleys 34a, providing for a second macroscopically structured surface.

On Pages 17-18, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 17-18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[48] As shown on the basis of Figure 1 in particular, the diaper fastening tape according to the present invention is preferably formed from several layers that are joined together. The diaper fastening tape according to Figure 1, presented here as an example, has a backing film 80 which in turn has adhesive strips 81 in a fastening area for fastening to a release tape 82, whereby the release tape 82 in turn has an adhesive strip 83 for fastening a diaper. On the other hand, the backing film has an intermediate backing film 84 in a closing area 11 by means of an

adhesive strip 85 which in turn carries the hook material 9 as well as the component 100 by means of an adhesive strip 86. As is immediately apparent, the component 100 is thus designed as a separate structural component and is of a different type of material than closing area 11 with hook material 9, and may thus function as a separate grip area 24, since the arrangement according to Figure 1 has been designed through appropriate separation processes to form diaper fastening tapes that can be applied to a diaper. For the sake of thoroughness, it should also be pointed out that the backing tape 80 has an elastic tape 87, e.g., made of TPE, in an intermediate area and can be slotted in the area of the tape. In this way, the backing tape is elastically stretchable in its intermediate area. It is self-evident that in an alternative embodiment, the backing film 80 and/or the intermediate backing film 84 may also be designed as a grip area, for example, by omitting the separate structural component 100 as well as the area of the adhesive strip 86 beneath that, optionally also the area of the intermediate backing film 84 beneath that and the corresponding area of the adhesive strip 85 and instead providing backing film 80 and/or the intermediate backing film 84 with a macroscopically structured surface. In this way a separate grip area is created because this is formed structurally from a different type of material than the neighboring functional structural component, namely the closing area 11 which is still formed by the hook material having the hooks.